

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EPA-04 SOE-01 DOE-12

FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 CAB-05 FAA-00 /171 W

-----002072 231149Z /16

R 231112Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1570

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

USMISSION GENEVA

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USEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY; USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, UK

SUBJECT: UK SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE EDMUND DELL'S

SPEECH TO GENERAL COUNCIL OF BRITISH SHIPPING

(GCBS)

1. SUMMARY: SPEAKING BEFORE THE GCBS ON DEC. 1, 1977,

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DELL RAISED SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT DESIRABLE RELATION-

SHIP BETWEEN UK GOVERNMENT AND SHIPPING INDUSTRY IN

CONTEXT OF INCREASING INTERVENTION IN WORLD SHIPPING BY

GOVERNMENTS OF OTHER NATIONS, INCLUDING THE US. HE

APPEARED TO IMPLY THAT IF UK SHIPPING INDUSTRY WOULD

COOPERATE AND SUPPORT A POLICY OF GREATER UK GOVERNMENT

INTERVENTION IN INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING MATTERS, THE UK

WOULD ATTEMPT TO DO MORE TO PROTECT THE INDUSTRY'S POSITION THROUGH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS. A COPY OF THE SPEECH IS BEING POUCH TO EB/MA. END SUMMARY.

2. UK SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE EDMUND DELL, SPEAKING TO REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL OF THE SIGNIFICANT BRITISH SHIPPING COMPANIES, NOTED THE NATURAL TENDENCIES OF GOVERNMENTS TO FOLLOW MERCANTILISTIC POLICIES TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OF THEIR SHIPPING INDUSTRIES. UK GOVERNMENTS HAD ABSTAINED FROM SUCH PRACTICES IN THE PAST BECAUSE BRITAIN HAVING ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING MERCHANT FLEETS COULD WIN THE COMPETITIVE BATTLE WITHOUT ANY GOVERNMENT SUPPORT. HOWEVER, MORE RECENTLY THE UK SHIPPING INDUSTRY HAD REQUIRED INTERVENTION BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. DELL NOTED A CHANGE "IN THE ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY OF THE FREEDOM OF THE SEAS" NO BETTER ILLUSTRATED THAN BY THE WORDS OF THE US FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WHO RECENTLY SAID, "TO PARTICIPATE IN THE US FOREIGN TRADES IS A PRIVILEGE AND NOT A RIGHT." DELL URGED HIS AUDIENCE NOT TO BE SURPRISED BY STATEMENTS OF THIS SORT ABOUT SHIPPING AND SIMULTANEOUS US INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE; THEY SIMPLY REFLECTED "THE DIFFERENT INTERESTS OF A GREAT NATION IN THE DIFFERENT FIELDS OF ITS ACTIVITIES."

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3. DELL NOTED THAT THIS LAST YEAR THE UK HAD FOUND ITSELF AT ODDS OVER SHIPPING WITH BOTH SUPER POWERS AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD WITH PROTECTIONIST MEASURES TO BOLSTER UNECONOMIC FLEETS AND WITH UNILATERAL REGULATION OF LINER TRADES. HE THEN PUT A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS TO THE UK GOVERNMENT AND HIS AUDIENCE WHICH CENTERED ON THE QUESTION WHETHER UK COMMITMENT TO AN OPEN SYSTEM WITH MINIMAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION WOULD ANY LONGER SERVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE INDUSTRY OR

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 CAB-05 FAA-00 /171 W

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USEEC/USOECD

THE COUNTRY. HAVING BOTH SHIPPING AND CIVIL AVIATION IN
HIS DEPARTMENT AND NOTING THAT CIVIL AIRLINES OBTAIN THEIR
FREEDOM TO OPERATE THROUGH AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED AMONG
GOVERNMENTS, HE ASKED HIMSELF "WHETHER PERHAPS SHIPPING
IS NOT MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF CIVIL AVIATION,
FREEDOM BY REGULATION INSTEAD OF FREEDOM BY RIGHT."
DELL RECOGNIZED THAT GIVEN UK STRENGTH IN SHIPPING, UK
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INDUSTRY MAY REGARD ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT WITH MISGIVING,
BUT, HE SAID, "PERHAPS WE NEED TO BE BETTER PREPARED."
HE CALLED ON UK SHIPPING INDUSTRY TO SAY WHAT IT WANTS THE
GOVERNMENT TO BE DOING. HE THOUGHT THE INDUSTRY WOULD
HAVE TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY ITS INTEREST IN INDEPENDENCE
FROM GOVERNMENT WITH ITS WIDENING NEED FOR MORE SUPPORT
BY GOVERNMENT AND WEIGH WHAT IT MAY HAVE TO PAY TO GET
WHAT IT WANTS--WHETHER FROM THE UK OR FROM OTHER
COUNTRIES.

4. DELL ALSO TOUCHED ON THE UK SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY AND ITS RELATION TO THE UK SHIPPING INDUSTRY. HE NOTED THE PRESSURE ON THE SHIPPING COMPANIES TO BUILD IN UK YARDS AND CONGRATULATED HIS AUDIENCE THAT 98.5 PERCENT OR 330,000 GROSS REGISTERED TONS OF THE INDUSTRY'S NEW ORDERS THIS YEAR HAD BEEN PLACED IN HOME YARDS. HOWEVER, HE WENT ON TO TELL HIS AUDIENCE, "MUCH MORE BUSINESS IS STILL REQUIRED AND THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONTINUE TO LOOK IN YOUR DIRECTION."

5. EMBASSY FORWARDING TO EB/MA COPY PREPARED PRIOR TO DELIVERY AND MARKED WITH SECTIONS APPARENTLY DELETED DURING ACTUAL DELIVERY. NO OFFICIAL TEXT IS YET AVAILABLE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: EWWT, UK, STATE
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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